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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/798,633

03/11/2004

Timothy D. Killinger

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EXAMINER

MOHANDESI, JILA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3728

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

02/23/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/798,633	KILLINGER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jila M. Mohandesi	3728	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Species I in the reply filed on June 12, 2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 4, 9-11, 14 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Platte, III (US 6,672,439). Platte discloses a portable container for holding office products and documents, the portable container comprising: a rigid structural portion (tote bag with front, back and bottom walls 12-16 being fairly rigid, see column 3, lines 11-14) capable of holding hanging folders in cascading configuration; and a cover portion made of pliable material (nylon fabric cover 52, see column 3, lines 16-21 and column 4, lines 26-32) attached to the rigid structural portion; a shoulder strap (handles 64 and 66) that is secured to the rigid structural portion. See Figures 1-5 embodiments.

The portable container of Platte is capable of holding folders in a cascading configuration.

With respect to claims 9-11, Platte discloses a storage caddy (removable dividers) that has a lower portion and a pocket (50) for holding items such as pens. The

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storage caddy is supported by webs (elastic cable 28) extending inward from the rigid structural portion.

4. Claims 1, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cyr (US 6,206,567). Cyr discloses a portable container for holding office products and documents, the portable container comprising: a rigid structural portion (Container 10) capable of holding hanging folders in cascading configuration; and a cover portion made of pliable material (closure flap 2 made of nylon or cotton duek material) attached to the rigid structural portion; a shoulder strap (12) that is secured to the rigid structural portion; and the cover portion including an upper panel (top 34) that may be opened to provide access to file folders disposed within the container. See Figures 1-4 embodiments. Inasmuch as it has been defined in the claims, the container portion (10) of the portable container of Cyr is rigid regardless of the material that it is made of since it is capable of supporting itself in an upright position as shown in Figures 1-4 embodiment.

The portable container of Cyr is capable of holding folders in a cascading configuration.

5. Claims 1, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Strong (US 5,873,730) Strong discloses a portable container for holding office products and documents, the portable container comprising: a rigid structural portion (bag body 12) capable of holding hanging folders in cascading configuration; and a cover portion (closure flap 32) attached to the rigid structural portion; a shoulder strap (44) that is

secured to the cover portion which passes through at least one aperture in the cover portion. See Figures 1-4 embodiments.

Inasmuch as it has been defined in the claims, the body bag (12) of the portable container of Strong is rigid regardless of the material that it is made of since it is capable of supporting itself in an upright position as shown in Figures 1-4 embodiment.

The portable container of Strong is capable of holding folders in a cascading configuration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Platte. Platte discloses that the cover may be sewn or otherwise attached to the top edge of the back wall 14. In either event, a hinged connection is formed between the top edge of the back wall (14) and the cover (52) to allow it to be moved between the open and closed position. With respect to claims 2 and 3 whether the attachment means is rod member, flexible straps or any other art recognized equivalent is an obvious matter of choice, such as to require less manual dexterity to operate.

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8. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Platte in view of Fox et al. (5,779,331). Platte as described above discloses all the limitations of the claims except to disclose the rigid structural portion including file folder hanging surfaces having variable heights so that file folders hanging from the rigid structural portion are arranged in a cascading manner. Fox discloses a portable container where a rigid structural portion includes file folder hanging surfaces having variable heights so that file folders hanging from the rigid structural portion are arranged in a cascading manner for better visibility and accessibility of files. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the rigid structural portion of Platte with file folder hanging surfaces having variable heights as taught by Fox so that file folders hanging from the rigid structural portion are arranged in a cascading manner for better visibility and accessibility of files.

9. Claims 15-17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Platte in view of Murray (3,281,193). Platte as described above discloses all the limitations of the claims except for a removable insert for providing hanging surfaces for hanging file folders of more than one size. Murray has been merely introduced to show that it is old and conventional to provide a removable insert for providing hanging surfaces for hanging file folders of more than one size. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in view of Murray to provide removable insert to the hanging surfaces of Platte for hanging file folders of more than one size.

With respect to claim 16 and the removable insert being made of metallic wire, it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

10. Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Platte in view of Roegner (6,126,012). Platte as described above discloses all the limitations of the claims except for the storage caddy including a cardboard stiffener. Roegner has been merely introduced to show that it is old and conventional to provide stiffeners such as foam or cardboard a storage caddy to better maintain its shape. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made in view of Roegner to provide cardboard stiffener to the storage caddy of Platte for better maintaining its shape.

Conclusion

11. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

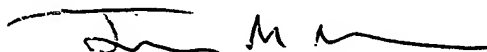
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extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jila M. Mohandesi whose telephone number is (571) 272-4558. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-4:00 (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571) 272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Jila M Mohandesi
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3728

JMM
February 14, 2007